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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/091,730	03/06/2002	Robert De France	DELRI/109/US	9761
2543	7590	12/01/2003	EXAMINER	
ALIX YALE & RISTAS LLP 750 MAIN STREET SUITE 1400 HARTFORD, CT 06103			FIGUEROA, FELIX O	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/091,730

Applicant(s)

DE FRANCE, ROBERT

Examiner

Felix O. Figueroa

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant is reminded of the revised amendment practice under 37 CFR 1.121, effective July 30, 2003. Please note that the response filed October 14, 2003 does not begin the Remarks on a separate page, and thus claim 18 has been included with the Remarks instead of the remaining claims. Applicant is required to submit a separate set of claims in response to this Office action in order to ensure that a complete and updated set of claims be present in the application.

Claim Objections

Claims 2 and 3 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 2 and 3 recite "a pair of transversely spaced longitudinally extending ribs" and "a pair of transversely spaced channels". The claim makes unclear whether the ribs and channels refer to the ribs and channels recited by claim 1.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reichman (US 4,189,198) in view of Auclair (US 4,784,621).

Reichman discloses a ground connector comprising: a one-piece base comprising a fixed jaw (27), a first guide portion (at 23, opposite 24) and a spade connector (left 28, in Fig.1) defining an opening (36); a one piece movable member (34) comprising a movable jaw, a second guide portion (at 34, facing 23) partially defining a receiving cavity, the receiving cavity configured for receiving the first guide portion in sliding engagement in order to guide longitudinal movement of the movable member with respect to the base to form a clamp (12); and securement means (32) that secures the base and movable member so that when a cable is received between the fixed jaw and the movable jaw, the jaws are securably clampable against the cable.

Reichman discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the ribs and channels. Auclair teaches a ground connector comprising a base with a fixed jaw (26) with a first guide portion, and a movable jaw (24) with a second guide portion partially defining a cavity for receiving the first guide portion, the first guide portion and the second guide portion, having a pair of opposing ribs (36,38) and a pair of opposing channels (52,54) which cooperate with the ribs; and securement means (62) that extends through the movable member and secures the base and movable member to provide a stronger and more stable connection within the base and the movable member. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the connector of Reichman with the first guide portion and the second guide portion, having a pair of opposing ribs and a pair of opposing channels which cooperate with the ribs, and securement means that extends

through the movable member, as taught by Auclair, to provide a stronger and more stable connection within the base and the movable member.

Regarding claims 7 and 8, Reichman discloses the movable member defining a longitudinal axis, said spade connector defining a plane parallel or orthogonal to said axis (depending on how the longitudinal axis is defined by the movable member).

Claims 9-11, 13, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reichman and Auclair, in view of Barron (US 4,768,963).

Reichman, as modified by Auclair, discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the use in combination with

Barron discloses a ground connection installation comprising: a transformer (14) having a ground connecting means (12); a base (5) having a spade connector (3) and a fixed jaw (left side of 6, in Fig.2) and a first guide portion (7); a movable member (9) comprising a movable jaw (tip of 11) and a second guide portion (11), wherein the first and second guide portions are configured for sliding engagement to guide longitudinal movement of the movable member with respect to the base; and securement means (threads) for securing the base and the movable member. However, Barron does not disclose the base with the spade connector defining an opening and a bolt extending through the opening.

Reichman, as modified by Auclair, shows (as disclosed for claim 1) that a connector base having a spade connector with an opening is an art recognized equivalent structure for the ground connector of Barron. Therefore, because these two connectors were art-recognized equivalents at the time the invention was made, one of

ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to substitute the connector of Reichman, as modified by Auclair, for the connector of Barron, in order to provide a ground connection with ruggedness, versatility and adaptability.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (703) 308-0097. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 8:00-5:00.

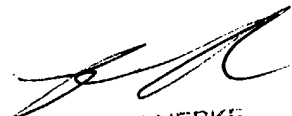
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

ffr



RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER